(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 260 559 (13) A

(43) Date of A publication 21.04.1993

(21) Application No 9120068.3

(22) Date of filing 20.09.1991

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(51) INT CL[5]
E04F 21/18

(52) UK CL (Edition L)
E1S SAV S204
E1E E6

(56) Documents cited

GB 2213189 A	GB 2200385 A	GB 2194977 A
GB 0939623 A	GB 0796701 A	GB 0242551 A
GB 0236327 A	US 4928916 A	US 4733844 A
US 4695028 A	US 4576354 A	

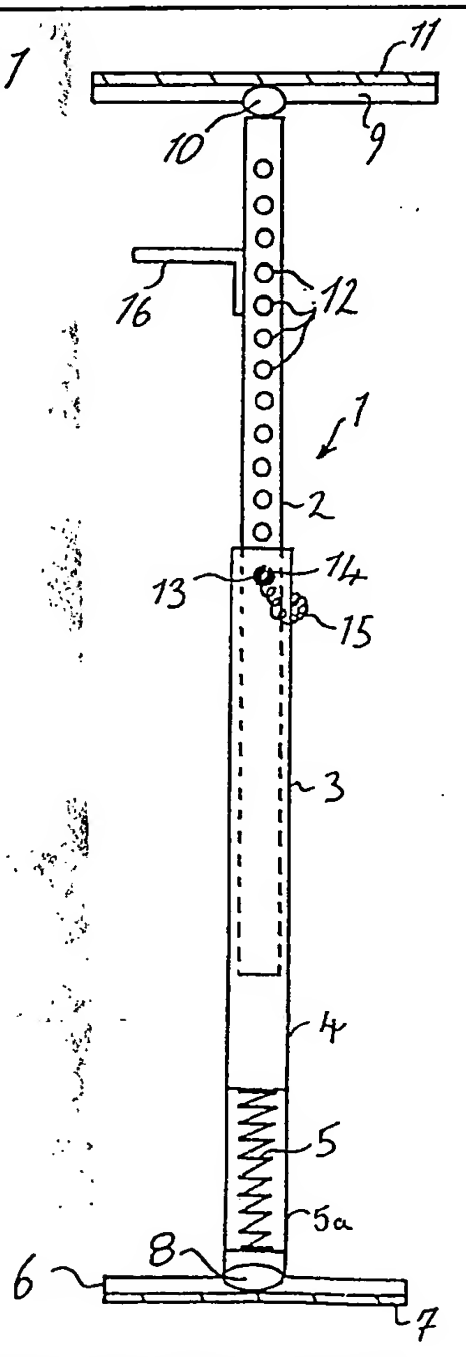
(58) Field of search
UK CL (Edition K) E1S SAV
INT CL[5] E04F, E04G

(54) A building aid

(57) A building aid to hold plasterboards for fixing to a ceiling comprises a telescopic strut with a sprung base (5).

The strut is extended to a longer length than required then first compressed and released under the plasterboard to hold it firmly in position. The strut is locked by a pin 14 and aligned hole 12, 13 arrangement.

FIG 1



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The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1990.

FIG 1

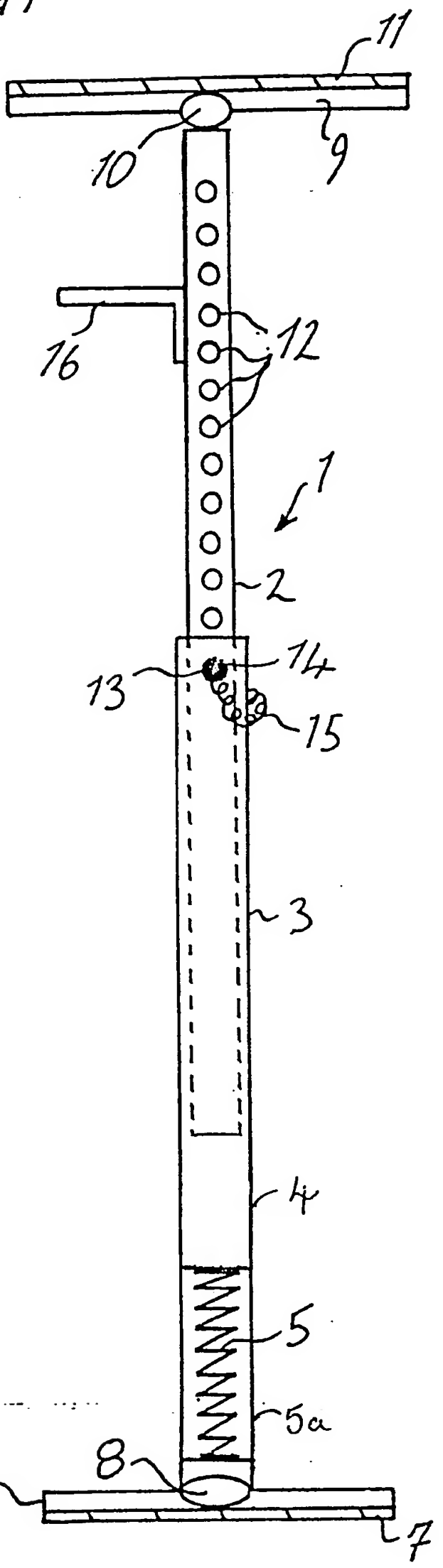
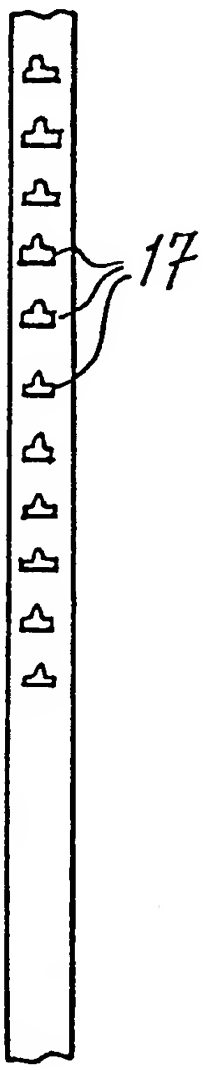


FIG 1a



Building Aid

The present invention relates to a building aid, and in particular to a device suitable for use by craftsmen and do-it-yourself workers. An example of such a use is in aiding the plastering of ceilings.

When plastering an internal ceiling of a building, the plasterer first needs to fix a layer of plasterboard to the ceiling prior to application of the plaster. Typically the plasterboard layer comprises a number of plasterboard sheets each positioned adjacent one another so as to cover the whole ceiling, and then fixed in position with nails or tacks. Nailing or tacking the plasterboard sheets to the ceiling typically requires two workers to be used, one to hold the sheet in place, and one to nail the boards in position. The expense of the job is therefore increased since an additional worker needs to be present to fix boards but is not necessary to continue the plastering job. Similar problems are encountered in many other situations, such as when locating other types of board.

I have now devised an improved device suitable for positioning boards, such as plasterboard, and suitable for other purposes in assisting a craftsman or do-it-yourself worker.

According to the present invention, there is provided a building aid comprising an elongate strut member and an elongate support member having their longitudinal axes arranged substantially parallel and being selectively movable longitudinally relative to one another, resilient biasing means being provided for biasing said support member in its longitudinal direction, one end of said strut member being provided with an engagement member arranged in use to abut a work article (such as a plasterboard) so as to hold said article in register with a predetermined surface (such as a ceiling).

Advantageously, securing means is provided arranged to selectively substantially inhibit relative movement of said strut member and said support member in their longitudinal direction.

It is preferred that the strut member and support member are arranged coaxially in a telescopic arrangement with the strut member being preferably received within the support member. Typically, the building aid is further provided with a base arranged in use to rest on a ground surface.

The engagement member is preferably provided with a planar engagement surface and may be in the form of a pad or the like having a planar surface of a resilient material such as rubber, foam or the like. Preferably, the engagement member is detachable and is pivotally connected to the strut member.

It is preferred that the resilient biasing means is in the form of a spring which is preferably a compression spring. The resilient biasing means is preferably contained within a sleeve and advantageously, co-operates with an adjacently located end region of the support member.

Preferably the securing means comprises a securing pin or the like arranged to pass through correspondingly alignable holes in the strut member and support member. It is preferred that a series of holes are provided along the length of either the strut member or support member alignable with a single hole in the other member as the two move longitudinally relative to one another.

Advantageously, the device is further provided with a shelf, tray or the like, connectable to the strut member, suitable for, for example, supporting tools or items to be used by a workman (such as a pot of paint or the like). Advantageously, the position of the latter shelf, tray or the like relative to the strut member is adjustable.

The invention will now be further described in a specific embodiment by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a building aid according to the invention; and

Figure 1a is a side view of a part of the building aid of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings, the building aid generally designated 1 comprises a cylindrical metal strut 2 telescopically received within a larger diameter hollow cylindrical support post 3. The bottom end 4 of support post 3 co-operates with one end of a helical compression spring 5 with the other end of the spring 5 being connected internally to the bottom of cylindrical sleeve 5a.

A base pad 6 is connected externally to the bottom of sleeve 5a, the lower planar face of the base pad 6 being covered with a layer of rubber 7. A pivotal connection mechanism 8 enables the base pad 6 to pivot relative to sleeve 5a.

An engagement pad 9 similar in construction to the base pad 6, having its upper planar face covered with a rubber layer 11, is pivotally connected by means of pivot connection 10 to the upper end of the strut 2. Strut 2 is provided with a series of holes 12 along its length, the holes 12 aligning with a corresponding hole 13 provided near the top of the support post 3 as the strut 2 moves longitudinally in the support post 3. Pin 14 attached to chain 15 passes through hole 13 and a corresponding hole 12 to selectively fix the support post 3 and strut 2 relative to one another. A shelf 16 is connected to the strut 2 by means of engagement of fixing formations on the shelf (not shown) and holes 17 provided in the side of the strut 2 (see Figure 1a). The height of the shelf is adjustable by means of selection of the particular holes 17 to which the shelf is connected.

In use, the pin 14 is removed from the holes in strut 2 and support post 3 such that the strut 2 and support post 3 may be moved longitudinally relative to one another. The device is then placed with the base pad 6, in engagement with the floor of the building support post 3 is forced downwardly against the biasing spring 5. A plasterboard (not shown) is then placed on the engagement pad 9, and slowly downward pressure on spring 5 is relaxed allowing the force exerted by the biasing spring 5 to move the strut 2 upwardly until the plasterboard is held in register with the ceiling.

CLAIMS.

1. A Building Aid comprising an elongate strut member and an elongate support member having their longitudinal axes arranged substantially parallel and being selectively movable longitudinally relative to one another, resilient biasing means being provided for biasing said support member in its longitudinal direction, one end of said strut member being provided with an engagement member arranged in use to ab u t a work article (such as a plaster board) so as to hold said article in register with a predetermined surface (such as a ceiling).

2. A Building Aid as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a securing means is provided arranged to selectively substantially inhibit relative movement of said strut member and said support member in their longitudinal direction. The strut arrangement with the strut member being received within the support member. The building aid is further provided with a base arranged in use to rest on a ground surface.

3. A Building Aid as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the engagement member is provided with a planar engagement surface and may be in the form of a pad or the like having a planar surface of a resilient material such as rubber, foam or the like. The engagement member is detachable.

4. A Building Aid as clamed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the resilient biasing means is in the form of a spring which is a compression spring. The resilient biasing means is contained within a sleeve and advantageously, co-operates with an adjacently located end region of the support member.

5. A Building Aid as claimed in 1 - 4, wherein the securing means comprises a securing pin or the like arranged to pass through correspondingly alignable holes in the strut member and support member. A series of holes are provided along the length of either the strut member or support member alignable with a single hole in the other member as the two move longitudinally relative to one another.

6. A Building Aid substantially as described herein with reference to figures 1 - 15 of the accompanying drawing.

Patents Act 1977
Exam' :r's report to the Comptroller under Section 17 (The Search Report)

Application number

GB 9120068.3

Relevant Technical fields

(i) UK Cl (Edition L) E1S (SAV)

(ii) Int Cl (Edition 5) E04G
E04F

Search Examiner

A H MITCHELL

Databases (see over)

(i) UK Patent Office

(ii)

Date of Search

18 JANUARY 1993

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims 1-6

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages		Relevant to claim(s)
A	GB 2213189 A	(REYNARD)	1
X	GB 2200385 A	(CHESWORTH) note the spring 15	1-5
X	GB 2194977 A	(BLOOM) note the pads 18, 20 and spring 12	1, 3, 4
X	GB 0939623	(FRAZELLE)	1-5
X	GB 0796701	(LEVINE) note the pin and apertures 13-15	1-5
X	GB 0242551	(BLIAULT)	1-5
X	GB 0236327	(BLIAULT)	1-5
X	US 4928916	(MOLLOY)	1-5
X	US 4733844	(MOLLOY)	1, 2, 4, 5
X	US 4695028	(HUNTER) see Figure 3	1, 2, 4
X	US 4576354	(BLESSING) see Figure 1	1-3, 5

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s.

Categories of documents

X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.

A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.

P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.

E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.

&: Member of the same patent family, corresponding document.

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).

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